

# SERMON OUTLINE Exodus 4:18-31

Obedience Changes the World

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## ***OBEDIENCE AND BLESSING (18-20)***

## ***DISOBEDIENCE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES (21-23)***

- ***ISRAEL AS GOD'S FIRSTBORN SON***
- ***HARDENING PHARAOH'S HEART***
- ***KILLING PHARAOH'S FIRSTBORN SON***

## ***DELIVERED OUT OF DISOBEDIENCE (24-26)***

## ***OBEDIENCE CHANGES THE WORLD (27-31)***

## ***CONCLUSION***

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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There are four sketches of obedience, in which we see God changing the world as He blesses obedience and curses disobedience. Moses's obedience to God's mission led to his reunification with his brother and his people, whom God had prepared to receive him. His acts of obedience resulted in the elders of Israel and all the people believing the Word of the LORD and worshipping Him together. But in the middle of this passage, we see the consequences for disobedience—centered around the death threat of the firstborn of Pharaoh and of Moses. Pharaoh and Moses will take diverging paths, and the results will depend not upon themselves, but on the LORD and his mercy. Here, we should clearly see the need for perfect obedience and the inability of anyone to meet this standard. This passage cries out for a perfect firstborn son.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. How have you seen God bless obedience in your life, or the lives of others? How has your own disobedience affected your life?
3. Can you articulate how the mission of Moses is like that of Jesus?
4. What are some of the passages that draw our attention to the parallel to Moses and Jesus?
5. What is the significance of Moses's staff?
6. What does it mean that Israel is God's firstborn son? How do we reconcile this with the New Testament claims of Jesus?
7. Why is it just for God to harden Pharaoh's heart while holding him accountable for it?
8. What does God's threat about Pharaoh's firstborn have to do with Moses and Israel?
9. Why did God spare Moses/Gershom after Zipporah's emergency circumcision?
10. In what ways did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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11. Examine yourself: are there any ways in which you are knowingly disobeying the Lord?
12. Commit to build up Christ's church by loving one another (John 13:35).
13. Commit to obeying the Lord in every area of your life, expecting God to bless your Spirit-empowered obedience.
14. Ask God to show you one specific thing you ought to do differently as a result of this text or sermon? Share that and pray about it with someone in your DG. Continue praying for and checking in with each other until you've both done it.

## PRAYER POINTS

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15. Adoration. Praise God that He is love, friend, protector, healer, savior, and righteous. Praise God that He is triune.
16. Confess. Confess any ways you neglected to obey the Lord. Confess any ways you've been apathetic to or selfish about God's commands.
17. Thanksgiving. Thank God for choosing you out of the world, for providing help for the world's hatred and persecution, thank God for loving you in Christ. Thank Jesus for remaining perfectly faithful to the Father through the very end and the example that is for us. Thank God for the Christians in your life that have loved you in a protecting and healing way.
18. Supplication. Ask God to heal the wounds of the world in the lives of the people you love. Ask God to help us live like Jesus no matter the cost. Ask God to help us love one another well. Ask God to help us see His glory more clearly and fully. Ask God to help us love the world in such a way that demonstrates God's mercy and grace.